

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FOR EA/ANP HURWITZ FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP PDEV BP
SUBJECT: SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY

REF: STATE 018120

1. WE DON'T YET KNOW HOW LARGE A DELEGATION SOLOMON ISLANDS (GSI) WILL INVITE, BUT WE MIGHT BEAR IN MIND THAT GPNG INVITED THREE (PLUS SPOUSES)--PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE, AND MYSELF AS RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE--TO ITS INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES TWO YEARS AGO. OUR DELEGATION CONSISTED OF, AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE GOVERNOR OF IOWA, THE MAYOR OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. (WITH SPOUSES), AND MYSELF. GIVEN THE LIMITED ACCOMMODATIONS IN HONIARA, WE DOUBT INVITATIONS WILL EXCEED THREE (PLUS SPOUSES) FROM GSI.

2. BELIEVE HEAD OF US DEL SHOULD HAVE SERVED IN SOLOMONS IN WORLD WAR II. MIGHT BE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, OR PUBLIC FIGURE. I WOULD PREFER CIVILIAN TO MILITARY PERSON TO LEAD DELEGATION. AS SECOND PERSON ON DELEGATION, WE BELIEVE MEMBER OF KENNEDY FAMILY (PREFERABLY JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.) WOULD BE VERY

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ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED.

3. FYI. ADMIRAL WEISNER (CINCPAC) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ATTENDING CEREMONIES TO MEMBER OF MY STAFF ON HIS RECENT VISIT HERE. HE SERVED ON AIRCRAFT CARRIER OFF SOLOMONS THAT WAS SUNK BY JAPANESE IN WW II AND HAS DISTINCT MEMORIES OF AREA. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY IN TOUCH WITH

MARINES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SOMEHOW PARTICIPATING, Awaiting, of course, state's lead. BGen Vincent Blaz, USMC Director of Information, would be the point of contact. During my consultations Peace Corps officials indicated they thought Peace Corps rep should be included on delegation as it is only US agency represented in Honiara. End FYI

4. COMSEVENTHFLT has told us it would like to pay ship visits in this area during summer. Informal discussions with Admiral Weisner have indicated he would be receptive to request for naval vessel to visit Honiara at time of independence. If this could be arranged it would permit attendance of naval and marine representatives without undue pressure on hotel facilities. I plan to make request to Admiral Weisner for naval vessel shortly.

5. Russ Olson is scheduled to visit Honiara next month and will ask some of questions we need answered.

6. Question of invitations for reps from TTPI, Guam and American Samoa was sticky one at time of PNG independence. We prevailed upon GPNG to issue invitation to USG in Washington through Congen Port Moresby, and not direct to governments of TTPI, Guam and American Samoa. We assume you will want this done same way this limited official use

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time, but please confirm. Also, would like instructions covering representation of Northern Marianas. How should such invitation be worded? I realize these questions may not arise, but would like to be informed in case they do. OLMSTED

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